



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

December 14, 2007

News from the Chief

Topping the list of this police department's many fine traditions is the annual Christmas Basket Program, now in its 46th year. Under the leadership of Commander Andy Garrett (our volunteer Chief Elf), hundreds of men, women, and children comprising more than 200 needy Nashville families will receive food and toys from police officers on Christmas Eve morning. The recipients are disadvantaged persons, who, for a variety of reasons, have come into contact with officers during the year. The Christmas Basket Program helps add joy to what would otherwise be a difficult holiday season for them, especially the children.

On Christmas Eve morning, I ask that all police department employees consider coming to our delivery warehouse as finishing touches are put on the baskets and they are sent on their way. Spouses and children are welcome at the warehouse and to join in making the deliveries. The warehouse is located inside the cafeteria of the old Tennessee State Prison just off Briley Parkway and Centennial Boulevard in West Nashville. To get to the cafeteria, travel along the right side of the prison wall until you see two large open iron gates on the left. Drive through the gates into the prison yard. The cafeteria will be directly in front of you.

Your dedication and care for others make this a great police department. Thank you for spreading warmth and joy this holiday season with those in need.

Staff from the General Services Department recently reported on several issues involving the police department. Here is an update:

- All talk groups on our radio system, even so-called "talk around" channels, are being recorded.
- A new radio tower is being constructed near Andrew Jackson Parkway and, when completed, should greatly help with coverage in the Hermitage area, particularly with walkie-talkies inside buildings.
- All car radios, walkie-talkies, and laptop computer modems will have to be reprogrammed in the coming months as part of a nationwide rebanding program to eliminate interference on the 800 MHz band from Nextel's communication system.

Nextel is actually paying the costs associated with the nationwide rebanding project. You will hear more about this during 2008.

- Plans call for 87 marked police cars and 29 unmarked cars to be replaced during 2008.
- General Services is exploring the possibility of allowing certain private vendors to perform oil changes on police vehicles. Nothing has been decided at this point.

Because of your outstanding work and commitment, Nashville is poised to record its fourth consecutive year of overall major crime reduction. Preliminary figures show a 2.25% reduction through December 8 when compared to the same time last year. **I am very, very grateful for all that you do.** Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to each of you and your families.

Happenings

The 13th Annual Season to Remember memorial service for families who have lost loved ones to homicide was held Thursday evening at Centennial Park. During the service, relatives and friends of the victims placed Christmas ornaments on a tree in remembrance of their loved ones. The memorial service, sponsored by the police department's Victim Intervention Program, the District Attorney's Office, You Have the Power, and the U.S. Attorney's Office, helps families ensure that homicide victims are not forgotten during the rush of the holiday season.



Chief Serpas places an ornament on a tree in Centennial Park in remembrance of Nashville police officers killed in the line of duty.

A ceremony honoring South Precinct Commander Rick Lankford on his impending retirement was held last week at Compstat. Badges were also presented to newly promoted South Precinct Commander Mike Alexander and Captain Randy Hickerson.

Lucy Roark was presented with an inscribed silver plate commemorating her 16 years of service to the department.



Pictured (l-r) are Chief Serpas, Councilman Rip Ryman, Commander Rick Lankford, and Councilman Michael Craddock.



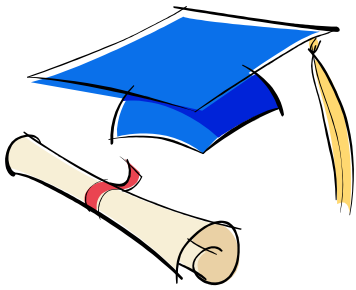
Pictured (l-r) are Chief Serpas, South Precinct Commander Mike Alexander, and his wife Julie.



Pictured (l-r) are Chief Serpas, Captain Randy Hickerson and his son, Justin, wife Deborah, and mother Fay.



Pictured (l-r) are Chief Serpas, Lucy Roark, and her husband Jim.



Seventeen new officers graduated December 3 from the department's training academy in the first police graduation ceremony presided over by Mayor Karl Dean.

Officer Ben Bryner won the Top Cop, Academic Excellence, Firearms, and Law Awards.

Officer Raymond Jones was given The Christy Dedman Spirit Award and Officer Justin Coker, class president, won the Leadership Award.

The 17 new officers will spend the next five to six months with precinct Field Training officers before patrolling the streets by themselves.



Members of Session 56 practice draw stroke training



Session 56 participates in Mental Illness Training

The Tennessee Chapter of Children's Advocacy Centers named Sex Abuse Unit Detective David Zoccola to their first annual Child Protective Investigative Team (CPIT) during a child advocacy conference in Nashville last month.

Detective Zoccola was recognized for his tireless commitment to investigating child abuse and to bringing child predators to justice.



Detective David Zoccola

The police department's boat took to the streets of downtown on December 7th as an element of the 55th Annual Nashville Gas Christmas Parade. Chief Serpas this year was joined on the boat by a group of children and members of the Tennessee Titans cheerleading squad.



The MNPd Nashville Gas Christmas Parade entry.

The Mounted Patrol recently took part in an open house at the Tennessee Agriculture Museum.



Pictured (l-r) are former Governor Winfield Dunn and Sergeant JD Harber with Bear.

The Precinct News

Hermitage

Persistence paid off for Officers Steve Holliday and Russell Ward as they pursued a man wanted on seven outstanding warrants for rape and sexual assault. Officers Holliday and Ward went to the suspect's home and learned he was working for a lawn care company near Central Pike. The officers went to the area and spotted him in his company car. He was taken into custody without incident.

Hermitage Precinct detectives charged John T. Ferguson for the December 1 robbery of Roma Pizza on McCampbell Avenue in Donelson.

Investigation by Detective Johnny Crumby led to the identification of Ferguson as the gunman who ordered three Roma employees and a customer to the ground and then robbed them and the business. Ferguson attempted to fire his pistol approximately five times toward the rear of the store. The gun failed and Ferguson's attempts to fix it were unsuccessful.

Ferguson has been in jail since December 6 on two counts of aggravated assault for flashing a gun at two car burglary victims in Madison last Monday. Prior to last week,

Ferguson had been free on bond on charges related to the February robbery of a woman in the parking lot of Rivergate Mall.

Ferguson had an accomplice in the Roma Pizza case. Detectives are continuing in their efforts to identify that person.

Patrol Officers Thomas Spence and James Hickman were definitely in the right place at the right time when they stopped the driver of a car weaving recklessly in and out of lanes on Stewarts Ferry Pike.

Michael Ingram, 39, was visibly intoxicated. In the car were five 12 and 13-year-old boys. Ingram, a convicted sex offender, is charged with five counts of reckless endangerment, five counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor, DUI, possession of drug paraphernalia, and violating the sex offender registry. Sex Abuse and Youth Services detectives, and the Department of Children's Services were notified.

Ingram may have met one of the boys online. The children were at a friend's home when Ingram called and asked to meet them. He picked them up at a school at 9 p.m. and was pulled over three hours later. The investigation continues.

Officers investigating a suspicious persons call at Dupont Tyler Middle School spotted two young men fleeing the area on foot at 1:15 a.m. The first suspect was found hiding under a boat stored behind a Weldon Drive home. A K-9 Unit tracked down the second suspect. An investigation showed that the suspects, both 17, had arrived in a stolen truck and were in the process of siphoning gas from a school bus when officers arrived.

Both teens are charged in Juvenile Court with felony theft, evading arrest, possession of drug paraphernalia, trespassing, and violating curfew.

South

Two suspects attempted to rob a business on Antioch Pike. When an employee called 911, the suspects fled in a black Ford Explorer. A suspect description was quickly dispatched.

A short time later, officers working the Robbery Initiative located the suspects at the Hickory Lake Apartments. Two men were taken into custody and positively identified as the robbers.

South Precinct officers' quick response to a robbery at the Waffle House at 318 Harding Place led to the arrest of both suspects.

Jonathan Shelton, 26, of Smyrna, and Amanda Hensley, 19, of Highlander Cove, entered the Waffle House with bandannas covering their faces. Shelton indicated he had a gun while Hensley jumped over the counter and took cash from the register.

As the suspects attempted to flee in a red Chevrolet Blazer driven by Shelton, customers flagged down nearby Patrol Officers Phouthasone Phantakou and Carlos Angulo who followed the SUV until it turned into a nearby parking lot. Hensley was seen throwing money out of her

front passenger window before Shelton stopped at a dead end. Officers Phantakou and Angulo took the couple into custody.

East

A driver was stopped for a seatbelt violation when Officer Broderick Jones detected an odor of marijuana. Seized in a subsequent search were a loaded pistol, 20 baggies of marijuana, the driver's SUV, and \$309 cash.

Officer James King stopped a driver for an equipment violation when he detected a strong odor of marijuana. Seized in a subsequent search were 136 grams of marijuana, a loaded pistol, drug paraphernalia, the driver's car, and \$1,050 cash.

East Precinct officers arrested two Gra-Mar Middle School students for firing a weapon into the air in the parking lot of Hillhurst Apartments at 1100 Sunset Circle.

The 13 and 14-year-old suspects walked a short distance from the apartments and boarded their school bus around 8:15 a.m.

Officers responded to the school and interviewed the teens. School Resource Officer Stephany Wilson built a rapport with the 13-year-old who told her he and his friend had disposed of the handgun before boarding the school bus in some brush between the apartments and Dickerson Pike. The .380 semi-automatic pistol was recovered.

The 13-year-old admitted to taking the gun from his guardian's secured weapon storage container inside their apartment after she left for work at 7:45 a.m.

Both teens are charged in Juvenile Court with unlawful weapon possession. The 13-year-old is also charged with the theft of the gun.

North

Officer Joshua Lunn was going to issue a warning to a driver whose window tint was too dark when a drug dog indicated to the presence of narcotics. Seized in a subsequent search of the car were a loaded revolver, 32.6 grams of marijuana, 16.1 grams of cocaine, 36 Ecstasy pills, and \$158 cash. The suspect is charged with felon in possession of a handgun and felony drug possession.

After police responded to reports of a shootout between several young men outside an apartment complex, one of the suspects fled on foot into a nearby wooded area. After a brief chase, Sergeant Jeffrey Sanders caught up with the 17-year old suspect and took him into custody. A loaded pistol with a 30 round magazine was located in the area where the teen was apprehended.

A 16-year-old 10th grader is being held at Juvenile Detention after being identified as the person who pulled a gun on a 63-year-old man during a robbery.

The victim had made a purchase at a liquor store and was walking home on Cliff Drive when three young men approached him. He said one of three, who he later identified as Quantez Coleman, held a gun to his head while instructing the other two to get his wallet. When the suspects discovered the wallet contained no money, they took the victim's bottle of liquor and fled. North Precinct officers quickly responded and set up a perimeter. A short time later, police dog Hogan and his partner, Officer John Hutcheson, apprehended Coleman in a wooded area near the crime scene. The victim's bottle of liquor was also found in the woods. Detectives continue in their efforts to identify the other two suspects and recover the gun.

Juveniles are responsible for 30% of all robbery arrests in Nashville during 2007.

West

Detectives arrested two women and a man in connection with robberies November 27 in the parking lot of Calhoun's restaurant on White Bridge Road and a parking garage near Whole Foods in the Hill Center off Hillsboro Pike in Green Hills.

The investigation shows that Bertina Baker, 24, Sharandon Patterson, 21, and James Alfred Reed, 22, drove up on the victims in Baker's Pontiac Grand Am.

A tip to Crime Stoppers assisted Detective Brad Putnam in identifying the suspects.

Hermitage Precinct detectives are expected to charge the trio with the attempted robbery of a woman in a Lebanon Wal-Mart parking lot the same day.

Three suspects were arrested after a man entered a hotel at midnight and robbed the business at gunpoint.

Later, Sergeant Vernon Teague stopped the suspect car. Two men and a woman were charged with robbery. The woman admitted to driving the getaway car and implicated herself, her boyfriend, and his uncle in the robbery.

Central

A robbery was likely avoided because of an alert employee and a quick response from Officer Joshua Combs.

A man entered a store on Monroe Street causing a worker to become suspicious. The employee ran out the back of the store when he saw a second man about to enter the business with a rifle. He notified police. As Officer Combs responded, the suspects fled the scene.

Sergeant Buddy Mitchell spotted four juveniles, who were supposed to be in school, and an adult, walking a block away from a reported break-in. When Sergeant Mitchell attempted to talk to them they fled into a nearby residence.

All four juveniles were arrested. One of the teens was in possession of a Derringer handgun. The adult was charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

**The following officers in the Field Operation Bureau were chosen Patrol,
Police, and Investigator of the Month for November 2007:**

Patrol Officer of the Month

South Precinct Officers James Cole and Brent Bauer
and
Hermitage Precinct Officer Vickie Dills

Police Officer of the Month

West Precinct Officer Shane Shetler

Investigator of the Month

Hermitage Precinct Detectives Jeff Ball and Clinton Vogel

Special Operations Officer of the Month

Police Negotiators Officer David Haywood

Blue Notes

Special Events

Lt. Donald Hawkins

The Special Events Office of the Metro Police Department is a part of the Field Operations Support Section and reports directly to the Deputy Chief of the Field Operations Bureau. The office is located in the Criminal Justice Center at 200 James Robertson Parkway on the 1st floor in Room 112.

The Special Events Coordinator represents the police department on all matters regarding special events and serves as an advisor to the Chief of Police regarding those permits requiring his review or signature. Such events include professional sporting events, walks and runs, block parties, parades, dignitary visits, planned demonstrations, and any other event that would necessitate a disruption in normal vehicular and/or pedestrian traffic flow.

A security plan is developed for each event, no matter how large or small. The purpose of this plan is to ensure that event promoters have adequate security personnel in place so as to ensure that on-duty resources are not affected. When an event is sponsored by the city, off-duty officers are utilized and paid through the special events budget so as not to impact on-duty resources.

In fiscal year 2006/2007 there were 203 special events. In 70% of all events, no on-duty personnel were utilized.

MNPD Wellness Tip-off

Eat Heart Smart: Start bringing the Brown Bag! Try to eat healthier by packing your lunch for work. Save some time by making your lunch the night before so you can grab it and go in the morning. By alternating your days and bringing a brown bag, you can save excess calories and fat along with saving money!

Choose to Move: Keep your body warm. Always warm up your muscles and stretch before starting your workout. Try running in place and doing jumping jacks for 3-5 minutes to get your heart rate up. Then stretch each muscle group before you begin your workout.

NFD/MNPD Wellness Initiative

Tara Beever, MS and Sarah Vaughn, RD

For more information, please call (615)-340-0466

Congratulations:

Kerri Watkins, Vehicle Impound Section, and her husband Bobby J. Watkins, Police Officer Trainee, are the proud parents of Katlyn, born December 7.

Officer Taylor Riggs, East Precinct, and his wife, are the proud parents of twins Cooper and Ainsleigh, born December 13.



Condolences:

Charlie Carter, grandfather of Officer Vickie Dill, Hermitage Precinct, passed away December 5.

Jerre Moore Fly Jr., grandfather of Police Officer Trainee Jerre Fly, Session 56, passed away December 5.

Thelma Barker, grandmother of Officer Jeffrey Barker, South Precinct, passed away recently.

Verda Sawyer, mother of Detective Wayne Sawyer, retired Youth Services, passed away December 9.

Hollis Stockton, grandfather of Officer Timothy Brewer, Hermitage Precinct, passed away recently.

FYI:



***Domestic Violence Division's annual Christmas Celebration
and Lucy Roark Retirement Party.***

***811 Second Avenue South
Monday, December 17
1 - 3 pm***



Thanks to Barbara Vaughan, Greg Ernsberger, and Diane Smiley for decorating the Christmas tree in the Criminal Justice Center lobby!



Background & Recruitment

MNPD tent provides visual recruiting tool



The MNPD pop-up tent will also be made available to other units for various functions.

There will be NO Environmental Court held on December 19.

NOTICE OF
Benefit Board Election
January 22, 2008
Police Employee Representative

All Police Department personnel currently enrolled in a Metro Employee Benefit Board plan are eligible to become candidates and vote.

Note: **Due to the resignation of Board Member Steve Bumpus, the candidate elected will serve the remainder of the incumbent's term.**

All employees interested in becoming a candidate must file a qualifying petition signed by at least twenty five eligible police employees. In order to place your name on the ballot, qualifying petitions must be received in the Department of Human Resources, 222 3rd Avenue North, 2nd Floor, by 4:30 p.m. on November 30, 2007.

For additional information about filing a petition, call: Steve Cain at 862-6640 Ext. 72267.

NOTE: In the event only one candidate qualifies to be on the ballot and is unopposed, the qualified candidate will be declared the winner.

In that event, voting will not take place.

The Election will be conducted by machine vote on January 22, 2008 from 6:30 a.m. till 6:00 p.m. Majority vote determines election winner.

Requirement to Vote:

Payroll advice slip for those who receive direct deposit dated January 22, 2008 (or paycheck stub for those who receive a check) and Active Police Department ID will be required (no exceptions).

Eligible voter will then sign eligibility roster.

Voting Locations:

- North Precinct
- South Precinct
- East Precinct
- West Precinct
- Criminal Justice Center- Headquarters
- Hermitage Precinct
- Central Precinct

 Requests for ADA accommodation should be directed to the Metro Human Resources Dept. @ 862-6640

Lt. Melvin Brown is accepting donations of shoes, clothes, toiletries, school supplies, treats, and toys for Iraqi children. These items, distributed to Iraqi families in need on a weekly basis, can be mailed to:

OPERATION HANDS AND FEET
C/O SFC MELVIN BROWN
130 RAOC
CAMP BUCCA IRAQ
APO AE 09375